

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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APPROVED BY NEA/ARN - MR. HOWELL
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P 072324Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090310

STADIS/////////
FOR CHARGE FROM NEA/ARN, HOWELL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SY, US

SUBJECT: SYRIAN JEWRY

REF: A) DAMASCUS 1940; B) DAMASCUS 1634

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER OF NEXT STEPS RE UNMARRIED WOMEN WITH AMBASSADOR MURPHY AND CONCLUDED, FOR REASONS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND, THAT HE SHOULD INITIATE SARG CONSIDERATION OF NEW PETITIONS WHEN HE NEXT SEES ASSAD. IT IS PROBABLE THAT, DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, COMPLETE DOCUMENTATION FOR ENTIRE GROUP OF 52 RPT 52 WOMEN WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN DAMASCUS BY THAT TIME. WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH SHALOM'S OFFICE LATE LAST WEEK AND WERE INFORMED THAT REVISION OF 11 RPT 11 PETITIONS CHANGED DURING SHALOM'S VISIT IS NOT FAR ADVANCED AND THAT WE COULD EXPECT THIS DOCUMENTATION, AS WELL AS THAT FOR BUCAI, IN DEPARTMENT IN TWO
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OR THREE WEEKS. GIVEN OTHER CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED IN TIMING OF APPROACH, WE BELIEVE DAMASCUS SHOULD PLAN TO PRODUCE AS MANY PETITIONS AS MAY BE IN YOUR HANDS WHEN AMBASSADOR CALLS ON ASSAD.

2. RE IRANIAN PPT HOLDERS, JACOBSON OF HIAS INFORMED ARN APRIL 7 THAT HE HAD JUST MET WITH OFFICIAL OF IRANIAN MIS-

SION IN NEW YORK. OFFICIAL READ TO JACOBSON FROM LETTER WRITTEN BY AMB. POURSAARTIP IN WHICH AMB. STATED HE HAD NO PROBLEM FACILITATING DEPARTURE OF INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES OR INDIVIDUALS FROM FAMILIES WHO SOUGHT ASSISTANCE OF IRANIAN EMBASSY. WHAT POURSAARTIP IS APPARENTLY NOT PREPARED TO DO IS EITHER SOLICIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN EMIGRATION OR ENGAGE IN PROJECT INVOLVING ENTIRE GROUP OF IRANIAN PPT HOLDERS. JACOBSON AGREED THAT, IF POURSAARTIP ATTITUDE ACCURATELY CONVEYED, PROBLEMS FOR THIS GROUP NOT INSURMOUNTABLE SINCE ALL THOSE SEEKING AID OF IRANIAN EMBASSY WOULD BE ACCORDED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE.

3. LIST OF IRANIAN PPT HOLDERS HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM DAMASCUS BY POUCH. JACOBSON HAS ASKED FOR COPY AND WILL PICK IT UP IN DEPT. ON APRIL 10. REFTEL B, PARA 3, AS RECEIVED HERE, STATES LIST CONTAINS 716 RPT 716 NAMES. PRESUME THIS WAS GARBLE IN TRANSMISSION AS LIST WE RECEIVED INCLUDED APPROXIMATELY 125 RPT 125 NAMES. VANCE

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